

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPIC-12 AID-20 H-03 COME-00 EB-11 IGA-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 L-03 /129 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:CLDARIS:IW

9/18/73 EXT 20842

APPROVED BY AF/W:ORAGGREY

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OPIC:SGITELMAN (INFO)

AID/AA/AFR:ADISDIER (DRAFT)

AID/AA/AFR:DSBROWN (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IV, BEXP

SUBJ: PROPOSAL FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

REF: ABIDJAN 5814

1. CONGRESSMAN VANDER JAGT HELD MEETING SEPTEMBER 14 TO BRIEF STATE, AID, COMMERCE AND OPIC REPS ON PROGRESS TO DATE IN GENERATING INTEREST IN THE PROPOSED INSTITUTE. DEPTASST SECY SMITH ATTENDED.

2. OPIC HAS AGREED TO FINANCE ONE HALF (UP TO \$50,000) OF FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR PROPOSED PROJECT, IF THAT AMOUNT IS MATCHED EQUALLY BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND IF PRIVATE INDUSTRY AGREES TO ASSIGN PERSONNEL TO PARTICIPATE IN DESIGN AND EVALUATION OF STUDY. RESPONSE FROM COMPANIES APPROACHED SO FAR HAS BEEN POSITIVE, AND THOSE INTERESTED WILL MEET IN NEW YORK ON SEPTEMBER 21 WITH OPIC REP AND MEMBER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONGRESSMAN'S STAFF TO ATTEMPT REACH AGREEMENT TO PROCEED

WITH STUDY. DISCUSSIONS WILL ALSO BE HELD ON HOW LAUNCHING OF STUDY MIGHT BE BLENDED WITH HOUPHOUET VISIT.

3. ALTHOUGH USG HAS BEEN ASKED TO SUPPORT PROJECT AND IN FACT OPIC HAS TAKEN PROMINENT ROLE IN THESE EARLY STAGES, BOTH CONGRESSMAN AND DEPARTMENT FEEL U.S. TRADE PROMOTION INTERESTS WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY LETTING INDUSTRY ASSUME LEADING ROLE IN PROJECT. THIS, COMBINED WITH FACT VIABILITY OF PROJECT NOT YET ESTABLISHED, FURTHER INHIBITS

OUR WILLINGNESS TO PLACE USG IN HIGH PROFILE, PARTICULARLY IN CONTEXT OF STATE VISIT.

4. CURRENT AID PRIORITIES MAKE AID RELUCTANT COMMIT ITSELF TO FUND ANY ASPECTS OF THIS PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH AID IS PREPARED CONSIDER SOME VERY LIMITED PROGRAM ASSISTANCE IF THAT--WHEN ADDED TO OTHER MORE SIZEABLE PRIVATE SECTOR INPUTS--WOULD MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROJECT LAUNCHING OR NOT.

5. IT IS STATE'S INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MORAL SUPPORT TO THE ENDEAVOR AND TO OFFER TO FACILITATE CONTACTS AS NECESSARY, INCLUDING IN THE IVORY COAST.

6. DIAWARA WILL BE TRAVELLING CONTINUOUSLY BETWEEN NOW AND HIS ARRIVAL HERE. IF HE IS CONFRONTED WITH QUESTION ON HIS ARRIVAL WILL HE BE ABLE TO AGREE TO ANYTHING? DOES EMBASSY VIEW HIS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE LAND AND BUILDINGS AS STILL FIRM? WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 21 MEETING. RUSH

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